



Frequently Asked Questions about How Geographic Response Plans are Developed

Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program (SPPR)



Introduction

The objective of these plans is to reduce decision-making time during the initial hours (1-12 hours) of response to an oil spill so that response strategies can be implemented immediately. GRPs contain maps and descriptions of sensitive natural and cultural resource, identify strategies to minimize damage to those resources, and set priorities for various spill scenarios. They act as the first priorities until real time information and decision making begins to occur in a spill response.

Left photo: GRP Strategy CPS 42 for Curley Creek during Dalco Passage Spill in 2004.

Cooperative Efforts for GRP Development

Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) are tactical oil spill response strategies that represent the collective input of tribes, natural resource trustee agencies, spill response organizations, and interested stakeholders on the best way to minimize damage to critical natural, cultural, and economic resources.

For more information about GRPs visit us at:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/spills.html.

Northwest Area Committee (NWAC):
www.rtl0nwac.com

Contact John Williams at
jowi461@ecy.wa.gov or
360-407-6968.

What criteria does Ecology use to consider where to locate strategies?

- likelihood that location will be impacted based on spill origin point (i.e. if there is no evidence of tidal influence on the mouth of a creek, than the impact of a marine spill on the upper stretch of the creek should be relatively low)
- public safety issues
- sensitivity of location to oil
- value of location as habitat or culturally sensitive area
- likelihood of strategy being effective (i.e. boom may have little to no effect for minimize impact for eel grass beds)
- feasibility of getting strategy in place rapidly (this can even include access issues), and not having environmental effects defeat effectiveness of strategy (currents, winds, etc.)
- likelihood of spill occurring in the area - for example an area which has a lot of oil transfer/transport activity may also have a larger number of strategies

What are some reasons that a location may not be feasible for developing strategies?

- potential for minimizing impacts of the spilled material on areas of high sensitivity value
- direction or prevailing currents
- ease of access for vacuum trucks, boat launching, boom deployment etc.
- low sensitivity of area to oil impacts
- low value as habitat or culturally sensitive area

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